

# In Vivo Efficacy of Human Simulated Regimens of Carbapenems and Comparator Agents against NDM-1-Producing *Enterobacteriaceae*

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Doripenem and ertapenem have demonstrated efficacy against several NDM-1-producing isolates *in vivo*, despite having high MICs. In this study, we sought to further characterize the efficacy profiles of humanized regimens of standard (500 mg given every 8 h) and high-dose, prolonged infusion of doripenem (2 g given every 8 h, 4-h infusion) and 1 g of ertapenem given intravenously every 24 h and the comparator regimens of ceftazidime at 2 g given every 8 h (2-h infusion), levofloxacin at 500 mg every 24 h, and aztreonam at 2 g every 6 h (1-h infusion) against a wider range of isolates in a murine thigh infection model. An isogenic wild-type strain and NDM-1-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* and eight clinical NDM-1-producing members of the family *Enterobacteriaceae* were tested in immunocompetent- and neutropenic-mouse models. The wild-type strain was susceptible to all of the agents, while the isogenic NDM-1-producing strain was resistant to ceftazidime, doripenem, and ertapenem. Clinical NDM-1-producing strains were resistant to nearly all five of the agents (two were susceptible to levofloxacin). In immunocompetent mice, all of the agents produced  $\geq 1\text{-log}_{10}$  CFU reductions of the isogenic wild-type and NDM-1-producing strains after 24 h. Minimal efficacy of ceftazidime, aztreonam, and levofloxacin against the clinical NDM-1-producing strains was observed. However, despite *in vitro* resistance,  $\geq 1\text{-log}_{10}$  CFU reductions of six of eight clinical strains were achieved with high-dose, prolonged infusion of doripenem and ertapenem. Slight enhancements of doripenem activity over the standard doses were obtained with high-dose, prolonged infusion for three of the four isolates tested. Similar efficacy observations were noted in neutropenic mice. These data suggest that carbapenems are a viable treatment option for infections caused by NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*.

New Delhi metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase (NDM-1) is a novel carbapenemase that was first identified in a *Klebsiella pneumoniae* isolate in India in 2008 (1). Since then, it has disseminated at a high rate among *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates both within the Indian subcontinent and worldwide (2–4). The treatment options for infections caused by NDM-1-producing isolates are extremely limited, as these enzymes are known to hydrolyze penicillins, cephalosporins, and carbapenems while typically retaining susceptibility to only colistin and tigecycline (2), neither of which has been shown to be a dependable option on the basis of *in vitro* time-kill data and case reports (5–8). Aztreonam is not readily inactivated by metallo- $\beta$ -lactamases, including NDM-1, and may represent another potential option for therapy (1, 9). However, NDM-1-producing strains often coproduce other  $\beta$ -lactamases, such as CTX-M- and CMY-type enzymes, that possess the ability to hydrolyze aztreonam, further limiting the utility of all  $\beta$ -lactam antibiotics (1). Furthermore, *in vivo* efficacy data evaluating potential treatment options for NDM-1-producing isolates are sparse and clinical experience in treating infections caused by these isolates is limited to case reports.

Unlike *in vivo* observations with isolates that produce the serine-carbapenemase KPC, carbapenem monotherapy has demonstrated reductions of NDM-1-producing bacterial isolates in a murine thigh infection model, even though the time that the concentration of an unbound antibiotic remains above the MIC during the dosing interval ( $fT_{>MIC}$ ) needed for efficacy was not achieved for all of the isolates (10, 11). Previous work by our group has demonstrated a reduction in bacterial density with human simulated monotherapy regimens of ertapenem and high-dose, prolonged infusion of doripenem against an isogenically con-

structed NDM-1-producing strain and four clinical NDM-1-producing strains in a murine thigh infection model (10). Since these results were both surprising and promising, it is essential to validate them with additional *in vivo* studies before determining the potential clinical utility of carbapenems for treating infections caused by NDM-1-producing organisms. A high-dose, prolonged doripenem infusion regimen (2 g given every 8 h as a 4-h infusion) was initially evaluated in the previous study for its potential to achieve the requisite pharmacodynamic target needed for efficacy against these resistant pathogens. Since considerable efficacy was observed with this regimen despite *in vitro* resistance, a standard dose of doripenem (500 mg given every 8 h) also warrants further study. Furthermore, only four clinical isolates were included in the initial study. Efficacy data from a larger range of clinical NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates, with additional comparator agents, are needed to best characterize the potential clinical utility of these regimens. In the present study, we sought to describe the *in vivo* efficacy of human simulated doses of both high-dose, prolonged-infusion and standard regimens of doripenem, ertapenem, ceftazidime, aztreonam, and levofloxacin against an isogenic pair consisting of a wild-type and an NDM-1-producing

strain and eight clinical NDM-1-producing isolates in a murine thigh infection model.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Antimicrobial test agents.** Commercially available ertapenem (Invanz, Merck & Co., Inc., Whitehouse Station, NJ), doripenem (Doribax; Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Raritan, NJ), ceftazidime (Fortaz; GlaxoSmith-Kline, Philadelphia, PA), aztreonam (Azactam; Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ), and levofloxacin (Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Schaumburg, IL) were obtained from the pharmacy department at Hartford Hospital for use in all *in vivo* experiments. Each drug was reconstituted according to the manufacturer's prescribing information and then further diluted in normal saline to the concentrations required for dosing. Dosing solutions were prepared just prior to each experiment, stored under refrigeration, and discarded after 24 h.

**Bacterial isolates.** An isogenic pair consisting of a wild-type *K. pneumoniae* strain (KP 454) and an NDM-1-producing strain derived by conjugation and four clinical NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates (EC 389, EC 393, KP 425, and KP 450) were provided by Patrice Nordmann, Hospital Bicêtre (Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France) (10). The ertapenem and doripenem MICs for these isolates were determined via Etest (AB bioMérieux, Solna, Sweden) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The MICs of ceftazidime, aztreonam, and levofloxacin for these isolates were determined by broth microdilution consistent with the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) methodology (12). *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853 was used as the quality control strain for all three agents evaluated by broth microdilution. MIC determinations were conducted in triplicate, and MICs are reported as modal values unless otherwise noted. Four additional clinical NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates (KP 476, KP 477, KP 478, and ECL 70) were kindly provided by Christine Lascos, International Health Management Associates, Inc. (Schaumburg, IL) (13). The MICs of all five of the agents evaluated were determined by broth microdilution as outlined above. All of the isolates were screened for KPC, OXA-48-like, VIM, IMP, and NDM carbapenemases, as well for extended-spectrum  $\beta$ -lactamases (TEM, SHV, and CTX-M) and AmpC  $\beta$ -lactamases (CMY, DHA, FOX, MOX, ACC, and ACT), as previously described (13). Isolates were stored at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  in double-strength skim milk (Remel, Lenexa, KS). Prior to each *in vivo* experiment, isolates were subcultured twice onto Trypticase soy agar with 5% sheep blood (BD Biosciences, Sparks, MD) and incubated at  $35^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 18 to 24 h.

**Immunocompetent-mouse thigh infection model.** This study was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT. Pathogen-free ICR mice weighing 20 to 22 g were acquired from Harlan Laboratories (Indianapolis, IN). All animals were maintained in accordance with the National Research Council's recommendations and were provided food and water *ad libitum*. Three days prior to inoculation for *in vivo* experiments, an intraperitoneal injection of uranyl nitrate (5 mg/kg) was given to produce a predictable level of renal impairment in order to slow antibiotic clearance (14). Two hours prior to the initiation of antimicrobial therapy, both thighs of each animal were inoculated intramuscularly with 0.1 ml of an inoculum solution containing the test isolate at  $10^8$  CFU/ml of normal saline.

**Neutropenic thigh infection model.** The isogenic wild-type and NDM-1-producing strains and two of the clinical NDM-1-producing isolates were also evaluated in a neutropenic infection model for efficacy comparison. The mice used in the neutropenic-mouse model underwent the same procedures as described for the immunocompetent-mouse model and were also given intraperitoneal injections of cyclophosphamide (Baxter, Deerfield, IL) at 100 and 150 mg/kg 1 and 4 days prior to inoculation, respectively, to induce neutropenia (14). Furthermore, an inoculum solution of  $10^7$  CFU/ml was used to produce thigh infection in neutropenic mice.

***In vivo* efficacy.** For each isolate, groups of three mice were administered a human simulated regimen of doripenem, ertapenem, ceftazidime, aztreonam, or levofloxacin beginning 2 h after inoculation. Humanized regimens previously developed and validated by our group to simulate the human pharmacodynamic profile of 2 g of doripenem given intravenously (i.v.) every 8 h as a 4-h infusion, 1 g of ertapenem given i.v. every 24 h, 2 g of ceftazidime given i.v. every 8 h as a 2-h infusion, 2 g of aztreonam given i.v. every 6 h as a 1-h infusion, and 500 mg of levofloxacin given every 24 h were used throughout (15–19). Since *in vivo* efficacy has been demonstrated previously with high-dose, prolonged infusion of doripenem, a standard doripenem dose of 500 mg given i.v. every 8 h was also evaluated against the four isolates with the highest doripenem MICs in the immunocompetent-mouse model and all of the isolates in the neutropenic-mouse model (20). Each dose within these regimens was administered as a 0.2-ml subcutaneous injection, with dosing regimens repeated when necessary to complete 24 h of therapy. Three control animals for each isolate were given normal saline in the same volume, by the same route, and at the same frequency as the most frequently administered treatment regimen over 24 h. Groups of untreated control mice were harvested at 0 h, while the control mice that received normal saline and all of the treated mice were harvested at 24 h. Mice that failed to survive to 24 h were harvested at the time of expiration and were included in the final data analysis. Harvesting consisted of euthanization by  $\text{CO}_2$  exposure, followed by cervical dislocation. Thighs were then removed from sacrificed animals and homogenized individually in normal saline. Serial dilutions of thigh homogenate were plated onto Trypticase soy agar with 5% sheep blood for determination of bacterial density. For experiments conducted in the neutropenic thigh infection model, efficacy was calculated as the change in bacterial density (in  $\log_{10}$  CFU) in treated mice after 24 h from the starting bacterial densities in 0-h control animals. In order to control for the effect of the host and associated variability of 0-h control bacterial density between isolates, efficacy in experiments conducted in the immunocompetent-mouse model was calculated as the change in bacterial density in treated mice after 24 h compared to that in the 24-h immunocompetent control mice (10, 21). The efficacy of human simulated high-dose, prolonged infusion of doripenem and the standard regimen of ertapenem was evaluated previously for the isogenic pair, EC 389, EC393, and KP 425 and has been included to provide a complete comparison (10). The observed efficacies of the two doripenem regimens and the ertapenem regimen were compared for each isolate by one-way repeated-measures analysis of variance. A *P* value of  $<0.05$  was defined *a priori* as statistically significant.

## RESULTS

**Bacterial isolates.** An isogenic pair consisting of wild-type *K. pneumoniae* 454, the NDM-1-producing strain derived from it, and a group of eight clinical NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates, were used. Phenotypic profiles for the five antimicrobials evaluated and the known genotypic profiles for all of the isolates included in the efficacy studies are described in Table 1 (10, 13). Briefly, the wild-type strain (KP 454) was susceptible to all five antibiotics tested, while the addition of NDM-1 to this strain resulted in *in vitro* resistance to ceftazidime, ertapenem, and doripenem according to current CLSI breakpoints. Most of the clinical strains used coproduced a variety of other  $\beta$ -lactamases and were resistant to nearly all of the  $\beta$ -lactam agents used in this study. Furthermore, six of the eight clinical strains were also resistant to levofloxacin.

***In vivo* efficacy.** The isogenic pair and all eight clinical isolates were evaluated in the immunocompetent-mouse model. In these studies, the mean bacterial density ( $\pm$  the standard deviation) in 0-h control mice was  $6.82 \pm 0.32 \log_{10}$  CFU per thigh and was maintained at  $6.82 \pm 1.23 \log_{10}$  CFU per thigh after 24 h. The efficacy results of the immunocompetent-

TABLE 1 Phenotypic and genotypic profiles of *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates used in the *in vivo* efficacy studies described here

Isolate	Known $\beta$ -lactamase content (10, 13)	MIC ( $\mu$ g/ml) <sup>a</sup>				
		DOR	ETP	CAZ	ATM	LEV
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 454	None	0.03	0.012	0.25	$\leq 0.25$	$\leq 0.06$
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 454 + NDM-1 plasmid	NDM-1	4	16	>128	2	0.125
<i>E. coli</i> 389	NDM-1, TEM-1, CTX-M-15	8	>32	>128	>256	32
<i>E. coli</i> 393	NDM-1, CTX-M-15, TEM-1, OXA-1, OXA-2	4	>32	>128	>256	32
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 425	NDM-1, TEM-1, SHV-11, CTX-M-15, CMY-16, OXA-1, OXA-9, OXA-10	32	>32	>128	256	0.5
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 450	NDM-1, SHV-11, SHV-28, TEM-1, CTX-M-15, OXA-1, OXA-9	>32	>32	>128	>256	16
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 476	NDM-1	64	128	>128	64	>32
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 477	NDM-1, SHV-2A, AmpC, DHA-1	64	128	>128	128 <sup>b</sup>	>32
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> 478	NDM-1, CTX-M-15	>64	128	>128	>256	>32
<i>E. cloacae</i> 70	NDM-1	64	64	>128	128	0.5

<sup>a</sup> DOR, doripenem; ETP, ertapenem; CAZ, ceftazidime; ATM, aztreonam; LEV, levofloxacin.

<sup>b</sup> Median value reported in the absence of a mode.

mouse studies are shown in Fig. 1. All five of the antimicrobials tested achieved a  $\geq 1$ -log<sub>10</sub> CFU reduction of the isogenic wild-type and NDM-1-producing strains. Consistent with ceftazidime MICs of  $>128$   $\mu$ g/ml ( $fT_{>MIC}$ , 0%), levofloxacin MICs of  $\geq 64$   $\mu$ g/ml ( $fT_{>MIC}$ ,  $\leq 10\%$ ), and levofloxacin MICs of  $\geq 0.5$

$\mu$ g/ml (AUC/MIC ratio,  $\leq 88$ ), none of these three agents produced consistent reductions in bacterial density across the eight clinical isolates evaluated. However, the high-dose, prolonged doripenem infusion regimen and the ertapenem regimen both resulted in substantial bacterial reductions for all

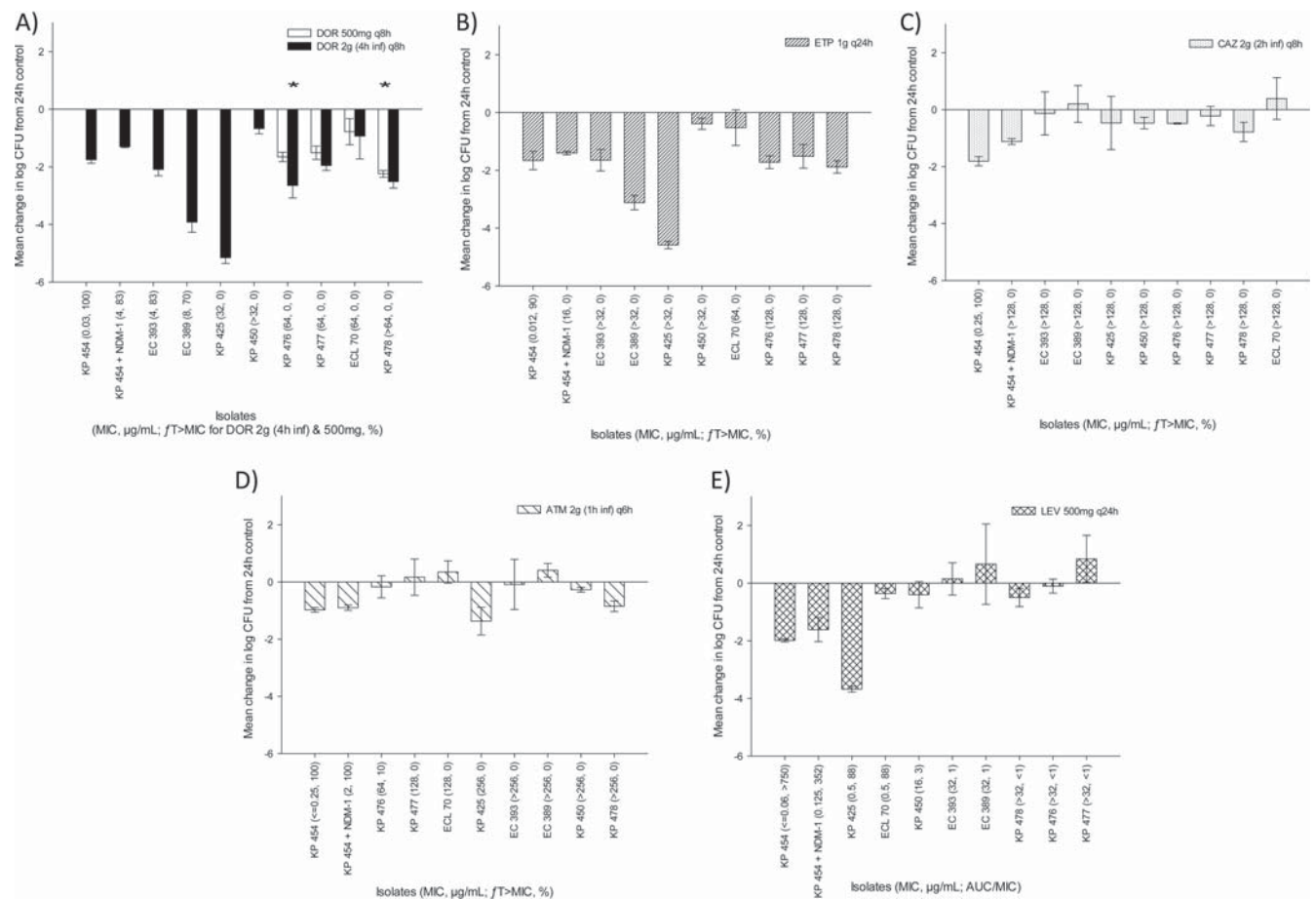


FIG 1 Efficacies of human simulated regimens of 500 mg of doripenem (DOR) given every 8 h and 2 g given every 8 h as a 4-h infusion (A), 1 g of ertapenem (ETP) given every 24 h (B), 2 g of ceftazidime (CAZ) given i.v. every 8 h as a 2-h infusion (C), 2 g of aztreonam (ATM) given i.v. every 6 h as a 1-h infusion (D), and 500 mg of levofloxacin (LEV) given i.v. every 24 h (E) against a group of NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates (CLSI susceptibility breakpoints: doripenem,  $\leq 1$   $\mu$ g/ml; ertapenem,  $\leq 0.5$   $\mu$ g/ml; ceftazidime,  $\leq 4$   $\mu$ g/ml; aztreonam,  $\leq 4$   $\mu$ g/ml; levofloxacin,  $\leq 2$   $\mu$ g/ml [45]) in an immunocompetent-mouse thigh infection model. Error bars represent standard deviations. For isolates where both doripenem regimens were evaluated, the asterisks denote a statistically significantly greater observed efficacy of 2 g of doripenem given every 8 h as a 4-h infusion than of 500 mg of doripenem given every 8 h and 1 g of ertapenem given every 24 h ( $P < 0.05$ ).

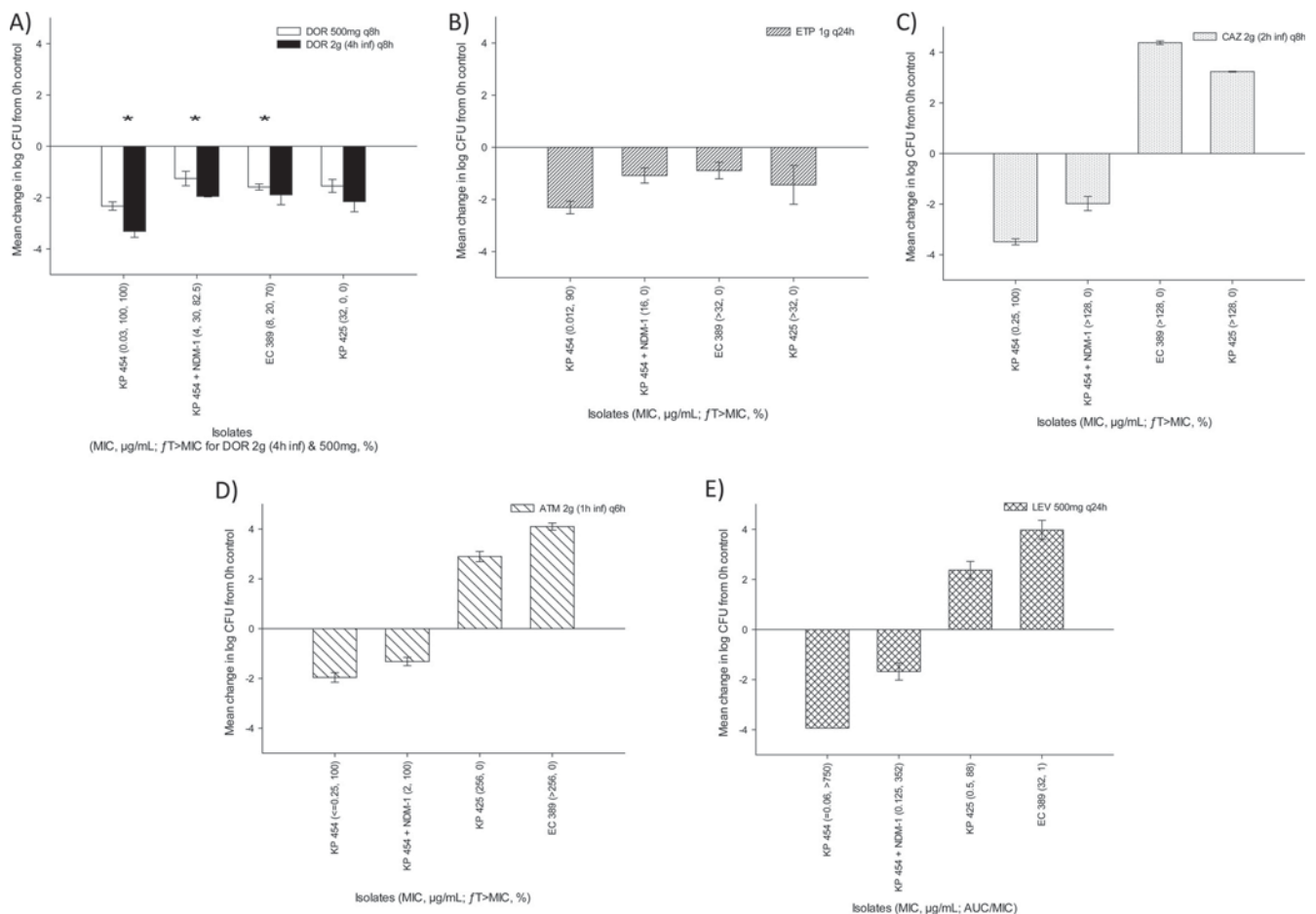


FIG 2 Efficacies of human simulated regimens of 500 mg of doripenem (DOR) given every 8 h and 2 g of doripenem given every 8 h as a 4-h infusion (A), 1 g of ertapenem (ETP) given every 24 h (B), 2 g of ceftazidime (CAZ) given i.v. every 8 h as a 2-h infusion (C), 2 g of aztreonam (ATM) given i.v. every 6 h as a 1-h infusion (D), and 500 mg of levofloxacin (LEV) given i.v. every 24 h (E) against a group of NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* isolates (CLSI susceptibility breakpoints: doripenem,  $\leq 1$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ; ertapenem,  $\leq 0.5$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ; ceftazidime,  $\leq 4$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ; aztreonam,  $\leq 4$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ; levofloxacin,  $\leq 2$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$  [45]) in a neutropenic-mouse thigh infection model. Error bars represent standard deviations. The asterisks denote a statistically significantly greater observed efficacy of 2 g of doripenem given every 8 h as a 4-h infusion than of 500 mg of doripenem given every 8 h and 1 g of ertapenem given every 24 h ( $P < 0.05$ ).

eight clinical strains, even in the light of six of these isolates having doripenem MICs of  $\geq 32$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$  ( $fT_{>MIC}$ , 0%) and all eight isolates having ertapenem MICs of  $> 32$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$  ( $fT_{>MIC}$ , 0%). While doripenem efficacy against the four isolates was demonstrated with both regimens, with doripenem MICs of  $\geq 64$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , numerically greater reductions of all four of the bacterial isolates evaluated were attained with the high-dose, prolonged-infusion regimen than with the standard 500-mg dose, and the difference was statistically significant for two of these isolates (Fig. 1A).

The isogenic wild-type and NDM-1-producing strains plus two of the clinical NDM-1-producing strains (EC 388 and KP 425) were also evaluated in a neutropenic-mouse model in order to best ascertain the efficacy of the regimens evaluated without the impact of the host. In these studies, the mean bacterial density in 0-h control mice ( $\pm$  the standard deviation) was  $5.99 \pm 0.49 \log_{10}$  CFU per thigh and increased to a mean of  $9.10 \pm 0.51 \log_{10}$  CFU per thigh after 24 h. The results of the neutropenic studies are depicted in Fig. 2. Similar trends in efficacy with respect to phenotypic and pharmacodynamic profiles were noted between the immunocompetent- and neutropenic-mouse studies.

## DISCUSSION

The rate at which the metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase NDM-1 has disseminated globally among members of the family *Enterobacteriaceae* is alarming (2). Without antimicrobials with novel mechanisms of action readily available, evaluation of the potential clinical utility of existing agents for the treatment of infections caused by these resistant pathogens is imperative. Since preliminary data on the *in vivo* efficacy of carbapenem regimens for NDM-1-producing organisms looked promising, we sought to corroborate these findings by using an expanded group of NDM-1-producing isolates and including other comparator agents (ceftazidime, aztreonam, and levofloxacin) whose pharmacodynamic profiles have previously been well characterized in the same *in vivo* infection model.

In the present study, *in vivo* efficacy was observed with all of the regimens tested against the wild-type *K. pneumoniae* strain, as expected. Comparable efficacies of levofloxacin, aztreonam, and high-dose, prolonged infusion of doripenem against the isogenically constructed NDM-1-producing strain were also observed, as predicted on the basis of the pharmacodynamic targets required for efficacy of an AUC/MIC ratio of  $\geq 125$ , an  $fT_{>MIC}$  of  $\geq 50\%$ ,



and an  $fT_{>MIC}$  of  $\geq 40\%$ , respectively (22–24). However, ertapenem and ceftazidime also demonstrated efficacy against the isogenic strain, even though the  $fT_{>MIC}$  achieved with these agents for this strain was 0%.

Neither ceftazidime nor aztreonam nor levofloxacin produced reliable efficacy across the eight clinical NDM-1-producing isolates evaluated in the immunocompetent-mouse model or the two isolates that were also evaluated in the neutropenic-mouse model, as anticipated on the basis of pharmacodynamic exposures of these isolates that were achieved. Even though efficacy of ceftazidime against the isogenic NDM-1-producing strain was noted when the  $fT_{>MIC}$  was 0%, minimal efficacy against the eight clinical strains with similar phenotypic profiles was seen, as anticipated, given NDM-1's efficient hydrolysis of most cephalosporins, coupled with the coproduction of additional  $\beta$ -lactamases by the clinical isolates (1). While variable efficacy of levofloxacin against the two clinical strains was noted, with a MIC of 0.5  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , essentially no activity against the other six strains was observed, with MICs of  $\geq 16 \mu\text{g/ml}$ . These data were consistent with the previously published pharmacodynamic target for fluoroquinolones against Gram-negative pathogens of an AUC/MIC ratio of  $\geq 125$ , as the AUC/MIC ratio was  $\leq 88$  for these eight clinical strains (24). A lack of consistent efficacy was also noted with aztreonam across the eight resistant clinical strains, consistent with a  $fT_{>MIC}$  of  $\leq 10\%$  for these isolates (18, 23). While aztreonam is not a substrate for metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase enzymes such as NDM-1, monotherapy is not a viable option for treating infections with NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* because of the high likelihood of the coproduction of CTX-M- and CMY-type  $\beta$ -lactamases, as evidenced by our results with the clinical strains (1, 9).

Even though the requisite 40%  $fT_{>MIC}$  needed for efficacy was achieved in only two of the eight clinical isolates with doripenem and in no isolates with ertapenem, bacterial reductions were achieved with both agents against all of the clinical strains evaluated in the immunocompetent- and neutropenic-mouse models (22). Furthermore,  $\geq 1\text{-log}_{10}$  CFU reductions of six of the eight clinical strains were achieved with both the doripenem and ertapenem regimens in the immunocompetent-mouse model. Similarly, reductions of the two isolates used in the neutropenic-mouse model were also observed with these regimens. When the doripenem regimens were compared directly, the high-dose, prolonged-infusion regimen of 2 g given every 8 h as a 4-h infusion showed a slight enhancement in efficacy over the standard regimen of 500 mg given every 8 h. The unanticipated activity of the carbapenems against these resistant NDM-1-producing isolates may be supported by the enzyme's reduced hydrolytic efficiency for carbapenems. In an enzyme kinetic study, NDM-1 exhibited less efficient hydrolysis of imipenem and meropenem than IMP-1 but was similar to that of VIM-2, which is known to hydrolyze carbapenems more slowly than other metallo- $\beta$ -lactamases (1, 25). Because of this variation in the hydrolytic efficiency of carbapenems among the various metallo- $\beta$ -lactamases, the efficacy observed with carbapenems in the present study cannot be readily extrapolated to strains that produce other metallo- $\beta$ -lactamases without additional *in vivo* evaluation against VIM- and IMP-producing strains.

While a great majority of the published case reports focus solely on the emergence and detection of NDM-1-producing strains in patients from around the world, some also describe the clinical course and treatment outcomes for these patients. It ap-

pears that a majority of the cases that include clinical outcomes have predominantly been treated successfully, most often with colistin- and/or amikacin-based regimens (26–39). It is likely that this collection of largely positive case reports is a result of publication bias and should be interpreted cautiously, since a small number of clinical failures with these same regimens have also been reported (6–8, 40). Nonetheless, consistent with the *in vivo* efficacy of carbapenems demonstrated in this study, four case reports have been published to date describing the successful treatment of infections caused by NDM-1 producers with meropenem- or ertapenem-based regimens (41–44). The first case was a patient with urosepsis caused by an NDM-1-producing *Escherichia coli* strain susceptible to meropenem, imipenem, tigecycline, colistin, and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole who successfully cleared the infection after an initial course of meropenem, followed by trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (41). A second patient with prostatitis, pyelonephritis, and an NDM-1-producing *E. coli* strain isolated from a clean-catch urine culture also demonstrated clinical improvement and microbiologic clearance of urine cultures with an ertapenem course of 2 g daily, followed by a single dose of fosfomycin, despite the isolate's resistance to ertapenem (42). Another patient who developed ventilator-associated pneumonia, likely caused by NDM-1-producing *Acinetobacter baumannii*, was treated with 7 days of meropenem and metronidazole. While the initial isolate recovered from a bronchoalveolar lavage sample and an oral cavity swab was resistant to meropenem, the patient recovered; however, it was unclear if this organism represented infection or colonization (43). A fourth patient treated for an abscess of the right iliac fossa also showed clinical improvement after 2 weeks of meropenem. However, adequate abscess drainage may have played a critical role in his recovery (44). While these clinical data are scarce and confounded by combination regimens and other clinical variables, they do appear to support the potential utility of carbapenems for treating NDM-1-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* infections and the discordance observed in this study between the phenotypic profile and *in vivo* efficacy.

Consistent with phenotypic profiles and pharmacodynamic targets, ceftazidime, aztreonam, and levofloxacin did not show consistent efficacy against the NDM-1-producing strains evaluated in this study, particularly in the absence of a functioning immune system. Only the simulated carbapenem regimens including standard and high-dose, prolonged infusion of doripenem and ertapenem demonstrated efficacy against these pathogens in both immunocompetent- and neutropenic-mouse thigh infection models, even in the light of elevated MICs. While there are currently new  $\beta$ -lactamase inhibitors and other novel drug targets in various phases of development, these data suggest that carbapenem-based regimens may represent a viable treatment option for infections caused by NDM-1-producing isolates in the interim.

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